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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, APRIL 18, 2000

MOTION OF

MCIMETRO ACCESS TRANSMISSION SERVICES
OF VIRGINIA, INC.

and

MCI WORLDCOM COMMUNICATIONS
OF VIRGINIA, INC.

CASE NO. PUC000116

For Mediation of Unresolved Issues
with Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc.
pursuant to § 252(a)(2) of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996

ORDER DIRECTING RESPONSE

On April 3, 2000, MCImetro Access Transmission Services of Virginia, Inc. ("MCImetro") and MCI WorldCom Communications of Virginia, Inc. (collectively, "MCI WorldCom"), filed a Motion Requesting Mediation By Commission Staff ("Motion") in Case Nos. PUC960113 and PUC960110.¹ MCI WorldCom and Bell Atlantic-Virginia, Inc. ("BA-VA"), are negotiating a new interconnection agreement to replace the interconnection agreements approved in Case Nos. PUC960113 and PUC960110. MCI WorldCom brings its Motion, pursuant to § 252(a)(2)² of the Telecommunications Act of

¹ Following the expiration of the interconnection agreement approved in Case No. PUC960110, last year, MCI WorldCom (f/k/a MFS Intelenet of Virginia, Inc.) adopted the MCImetro/BA-VA interconnection agreement approved in Case No. PUC960113. BA-VA filed this agreement for approval on March 31, 2000, and it has been assigned Case No. PUC000114.

² Section 252(a)(2) of the Act provides that "[a]ny party negotiating an agreement under this section may, at any point in the negotiation, ask a State Commission to participate in the negotiation and to mediate any

1996 ("Act"), to request the Commission's Staff to mediate whether the existing interconnection agreement between MCImetro and BA-VA is the appropriate starting point for negotiations on a new interconnection agreement. MCI WorldCom also requests the Commission to allow the Staff to mediate any differences arising in the course of the negotiation, pursuant to § 252(a)(2) of the Act, as warranted.³

Based upon MCI WorldCom's Motion, the Commission is of the opinion that the request for mediation of unresolved issues between MCI WorldCom and BA-VA for a new interconnection agreement should be considered in a new case, to be docketed as Case No. PUC000116, as captioned above.⁴ The Commission further finds that BA-VA should be required to file its response to MCI WorldCom's Motion, particularly stating why negotiations cannot be initiated from the parties' existing interconnection agreement. Said response by BA-VA should be filed in Case No. PUC000116 no later than ten (10) days following the effective date of this Order.

differences arising in the course of negotiation."

³ MCI WorldCom filed a request for negotiations for a new interconnection agreement with BA-VA in Case Nos. PUC960110 and PUC960113 on March 3, 2000. Pursuant to § 252(b)(1) of the Act, an arbitration petition may be filed from the current negotiations within 135 to 160 days thereafter.

⁴ The Commission redocketed the Motion in Case No. PUC000116 for the reason that it relates to a new interconnection agreement.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter is now docketed and assigned Case No. PUC000116.

(2) BA-VA is hereby directed to file its response, consistent with the findings above, no later than ten (10) days from the effective date of this Order.